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12 OCT 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief
United States Secret Service

SUBJECT : Freds Ziedonis LAUNAGS, aka Alfreds LAUNAGS

1. This Agency has received from The Immigration and Naturalization Service copies of two letters dated May 20, 1965 and September 2, 1965 addressed by Freds LAUNAGS to the President of the United States. It is our understanding that your office has already received copies of these letters.

2. Alfreds LAUNAGS was born on 7 June 1919 in Vecpiebalga, Latvia. He remained in his native country during the first Soviet occupation (1940-1941), during the German occupation (1941-1945) and during the initial period of the Soviet occupation following the end of World War II. He claims to have been ideologically opposed to the first Soviet Regime and to have engaged in minor, inconsequential anti-Soviet acts. For a short period of time during the succeeding German occupation, he claims to have done some clerical work, indirectly for the Nazi security element (SD) in Riga. This work lasted only a short time because his boss fell out of favor with the Nazi Regime and was arrested. LAUNAGS was also arrested but was released after a short period of incarceration. When the Soviets returned to Latvia and reoccupied the country after the defeat of the Germans, LAUNAGS claims to have remained there, hiding in the woods of the Kurzeme area. He says that he made contact with anti-Soviet partisan elements and that eventually they prevailed upon him to leave Latvia clandestinely, by boat, in order to seek material assistance from Western governments. He left Latvia in October 1945 and arrived in Sweden where he attempted to establish contact with the intelligence services of various Western countries. In Sweden he was reunited with his wife whom he had married in Latvia in 1944 and whom he had not seen since August 1944 when she fled to Germany with retreating Wehrmacht elements.

3. LAUNAGS made his first contact with representatives of this Agency in 1950 in Sweden. Because of his extensive background knowledge of his native country and its people, our representatives expressed an interest in employing him in Germany on a contract basis. As a result, he and his family travelled from Sweden to Germany in May 1951. They remained there until 19 October 1952, when they emigrated to the United States. In November 1957 LAUNAGS obtained U.S. citizenship through naturalization proceedings.

4. LAUNAGS' contractual agreement with this Agency was terminated in December 1959, after he began to show evidence of emotional instability

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and disturbance. He was aided in finding suitable outside employment and was provided with a contact to be used in case of necessity. During her residence in the United States, Mrs. LAUNAGS was able to complete the necessary studies and examinations in order to resume her career in dentistry which she had begun in Europe. Upon leaving the Washington, D.C. area in 1959, the LAUNAGS family settled in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania area.

5. From indications received by this Agency during the past nine months, Alfreds LAUNAGS' personal situation began to deteriorate sometime after he moved to Lancaster. He was unable to hold his job and lost a number of others in succession. He began to suffer from a persecution complex and began to have difficulties with his wife. His marital relations became progressively worse and his wife initiated divorce action at the end of 1964. As a result of the necessary legal separation, he moved to New York City. Complicating his situation is the fact that his teenage son has exhibited mental instability and has periodically been confined in a mental institution. In New York City LAUNAGS held several jobs but lost them because of irrational behavior. Since he is not employed at present, he survives on unemployment payments and reportedly now has no fixed abode.

6. According to his own statements, LAUNAGS has written several letters to the President of the United States and to the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. He claims that on one occasion he delivered a letter in person to the Soviet offices at the United Nations. One of his reasons for writing--probably the main reason--is his avowed desire to return to his native Latvia. As far as this Agency has been able to determine, LAUNAGS has not yet taken any concrete steps toward repatriation, other than the writing of letters in which he made generalized mention of such a desire.

7. According to a reliable source of this Agency, on 17 July 1965 LAUNAGS paid an unexpected weekend visit to a Latvian summer camp in New York state. He remained overnight and became involved in an argument with another man whom he accused of having occupied his bunk. LAUNAGS reportedly became violent, attacked the man and attempted to choke him. Although this created a nocturnal disturbance, the police were not notified because the leaders of the camp did not wish to expose the Latvian camp to adverse publicity.

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8. In view of the above outlined history of LAIRAGS' irrational behavior and mental instability, and particularly in light of his recent attempted act of violence he should be considered a potential threat to the President of the United States and to other officials of the United States Government.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANS:

Signed: ☐ ☐

CSX-215/03808-65

cc Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

SR/O/AC: ☐ lka 11 October 1965

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